

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2896

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, PINS, PGOV, EAID, CB

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN SITUATION REPORT -- APRIL 17

CAMBODIA-B NO. 53

1. A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES CAME AT LONG LAST TO CAMBODIA ON APRIL 17. A GROUP OF TEN FANK GENERALS WERE REPORTEDLY NEGOTIATING IN THE EARLY MORNING AT EMG HEADQUARTERS WITH A KC DELEGATION AND A SURRENDER OCCURRED AT ABOUT 0830. A MESSAGE WAS SENT FROM EMG AT ABOUT THAT TIME TO THE COMMANDERS IN THE PROVINCES ANNOUNCING THE FACT OF THE SURRENDER AND REQUESTING THE FIELD COMMANDERS TO STAND BY FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. AT 1145 A SECOND SUCH MESSAGE ASKED THE FIELD COMMANDERS AND MILITARY REGION GOVERNORS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND STOP FIGHTING. AT ABOUT 1230 THE GARRISONS AT KOMPONG CHAM AND KOMPONG SPEU HAD RAISED THE WHITE FLAG. BY 1400 THE KC HAD ENTERED GENERAL CHANTARANGSEY'S HEADQUARTERS AT KOMPONG SPEU (IN HIS ABSENCE IN PHNOM PENH, WHERE HE WAS PRESUMABLY ONE OF THE TEN FANK GENERALS AT EMG) AND HAD COLLECTED WEAPONS.

2. AS LATE AS 1530 IT APPEARED THAT KOMPONG SOM HAD NOT YET CAPITULATED, BUT WAS HOLDING OUT, PROBABLY TO ALLOW THE EVACUATION OF ADDITIONAL KAF AIRCRAFT FROM THE REAM AIRBASE TO THAILAND. MEANWHILE, THE REACTION IN PHNOM
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PENH WAS REPORTED AS RANGING FROM HAPPY TO JUBILANT, AT

LEAST FOR THOSE SEEN PUBLICLY ON THE STREETS PRESUMABLY BECAUSE IT SPELLED THE END TO THE BLOODSHED. THE FATE OF SENIOR GKR LEADERS WAS AS YET UNCLEAR. TELEPHONE LINKS FROM BANGKOK AND NKP TO MNK HEADQUARTERS AND THE AIR FORCE DASC WERE MADE AROUND 0700, BUT HAD GONE SILENT BY 1000.

3. AT ABOUT 0315 TWO T-28'S AND A C-123 FROM KOOPONG CHHNANG ARRIVED AT UTAPAO AIRBASE. A THIRD T-28 WHICH HAD TAKEN OFF WITH THIS GROUP FAILED TO ARRIVE. THE C-123 WAS FILLED WITH A NUMBER OF KAF OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIESW AS WELL AS BG KEM THI, MILITARY REGION COMMANDER FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG. AT 1330 THREE MORE T-28'S AND ONE AU-24 ARRIVED AT UTAPAO FROM THE AIRBASE AT REAM. AT 1600 A U-1H ARRIVED FROM REAM WITH 26 PERSONS ABOARD (SOMETHING OF A RECORD). IT FLAMED OUT ON ARRIVAL AT UTAPAO BUT MANAGED TO LAND WITHOUT DAMAGE JUST AT THE END OF THE RUNWAY. IT WAS ALSO LEARNED THAT AIR FORCE COMMANDER BG EA CHHONG HAD PICKED UP ALL THE KAF PILOTS FROM REAM AND KOMPONG CHHNANG AND HAD LANDED THEM AT THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF ODDAR MEANCHEY, IN NORTHWEST CAMBODIA NEAR THE THAI BORDER.

4. AIR DROPS. TEN AIRDROP SORTIES WERE SCHEDULED AND COMPLETED APRIL 16. NINE WERE RICE, AND ONE AMMUNITION SORTIE WAS MADE TO KOMPONG SPEU (EARLY IN THE MORNING). FOR APRIL 18, THERE ARE 12 RICE DROPS SCHEDULED.

5. VOLAG NOTE. HAROLD SILLCOX OF CARE INFORMED US THAT CARE IS NEGOTIATING THROUGH HANOI FOR PERMISSION TO RE-ENTER CAMBODIA AS CARE/AUSTRALIA, THEREBY COMPLETING THE PROCESS OF DISASSOCIATION FROM USG SPONSORSHIP. MASTERS

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